

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (previously presented) A device for closing a container provided with a neck, the device comprising:

a first portion forming a closure element;

a second annular portion positioned around the neck;

a third portion which forms a tamper-evident tab linking the first portion to the second portion, and which is connected to the first and second portions by frangible means so that the tamper-evident tab must be removed upon first use in order to release the closure element; and

storage means accessible through the second portion for allowing insertion of the tamper-evident tab therein once the tamper-evident tab has been separated from the first and second portions.

2. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the second portion includes a wall forming an annular skirt, and wherein the storage means includes:

a storage space between the skirt and the neck; and
a passage through the wall of the skirt that allows access to the storage space so that the tamper-evident tab can be inserted therein.

3. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 2, wherein the passage is formed by a hole.

4. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 2, wherein, opposite the closure element, the skirt terminates in a free edge which defines a notch forming the passage.

5. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 2, wherein, on each side of the tamper-evident tab, the frangible means is a continuous line of lesser mechanical resistance.

6. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a hinge that links the closure element to the second portion, and wherein the frangible means includes at least one line of lesser mechanical resistance which extends between the tamper-evident tab and the second portion, and, diametrically opposite the hinge, defines an edge of a notch that is defined by the second portion and uncovers a part of the neck after the

tamper-evident tab has been removed.

7. (currently amended) A container comprising a body having a neck and a closure device for closing an opening in the neck of the container including:

- a first portion forming a closure element;

- a second, annular portion positioned around the neck;

- a third portion which forms a tamper-evident tab linking the first portion to the second portion, and which is connected to the first and second portions by frangible means so that the tamper-evident tab must be removed upon first use in order to release the closure element; and

- storage means accessible through the second portion for allowing insertion of the tamper-evident tab therein once the tamper-evident tab has been separated from the first and second portions.

8. (previously presented) The container according to Claim 7, wherein the storage means includes:

- a storage space between the skirt and the neck; and

- a passage through the wall of the skirt that allows access to the storage space so that the tamper-evident tab can be inserted therein.

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9. (previously presented) The container according to Claim 8, wherein at least one of the elements of the group consisting of the neck and the skirt of the closure device, defines at least one guide for confining the tamper-evident tab in the interior storage space.

10. (previously presented) The container according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one guide for confining is an annular projection laterally defining the interior storage space.

11. (cancelled).

12. (previously presented) The container according to Claim 8, wherein the passage is formed by a hole.

13. (currently amended) The container according to Claim [[12]] 8, wherein, opposite the closure element, the skirt terminates in a free edge which defines a notch forming the passage.

14. (currently amended) The container according to Claim [[13]] 8, wherein on each side of the tamper-evident tab the frangible means is a continuous line of lesser mechanical resistance.

15. (previously presented) The container according to Claim [[14]] 7, further comprising a hinge that links the closure element to the second portion, and wherein the frangible means includes at least one line of lesser mechanical resistance which extends between the tamper-evident tab and the second portion, and, diametrically opposite the hinge, defines an edge of a notch that is defined by the second portion and uncovers a part of the neck after the tamper-evident tab has been removed.

16. (currently amended) The container according to Claim [[15]] 13, wherein, at the notch, the neck projects further than the second portion.